

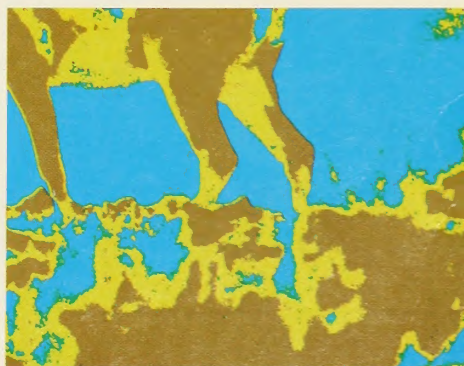
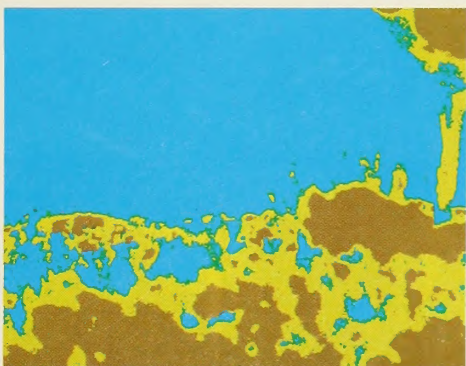
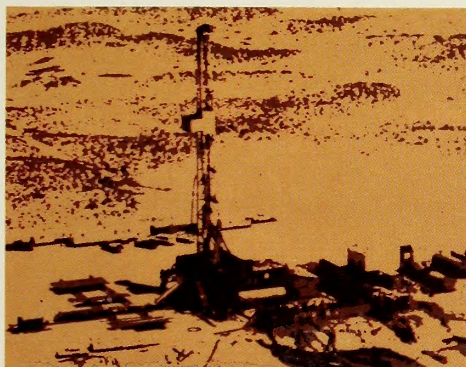
WYOMING Land Use Decisions

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Seven Lakes Area Rawlins District



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LANDS

WILDLIFE

WATERSHED

FOREST
PRODUCTS

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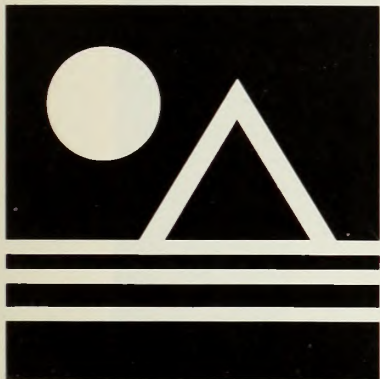
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RECREATION

RANGE
MANAGEMENT

WILD
FREE-ROAMING
HORSES

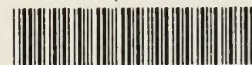
MINERALS

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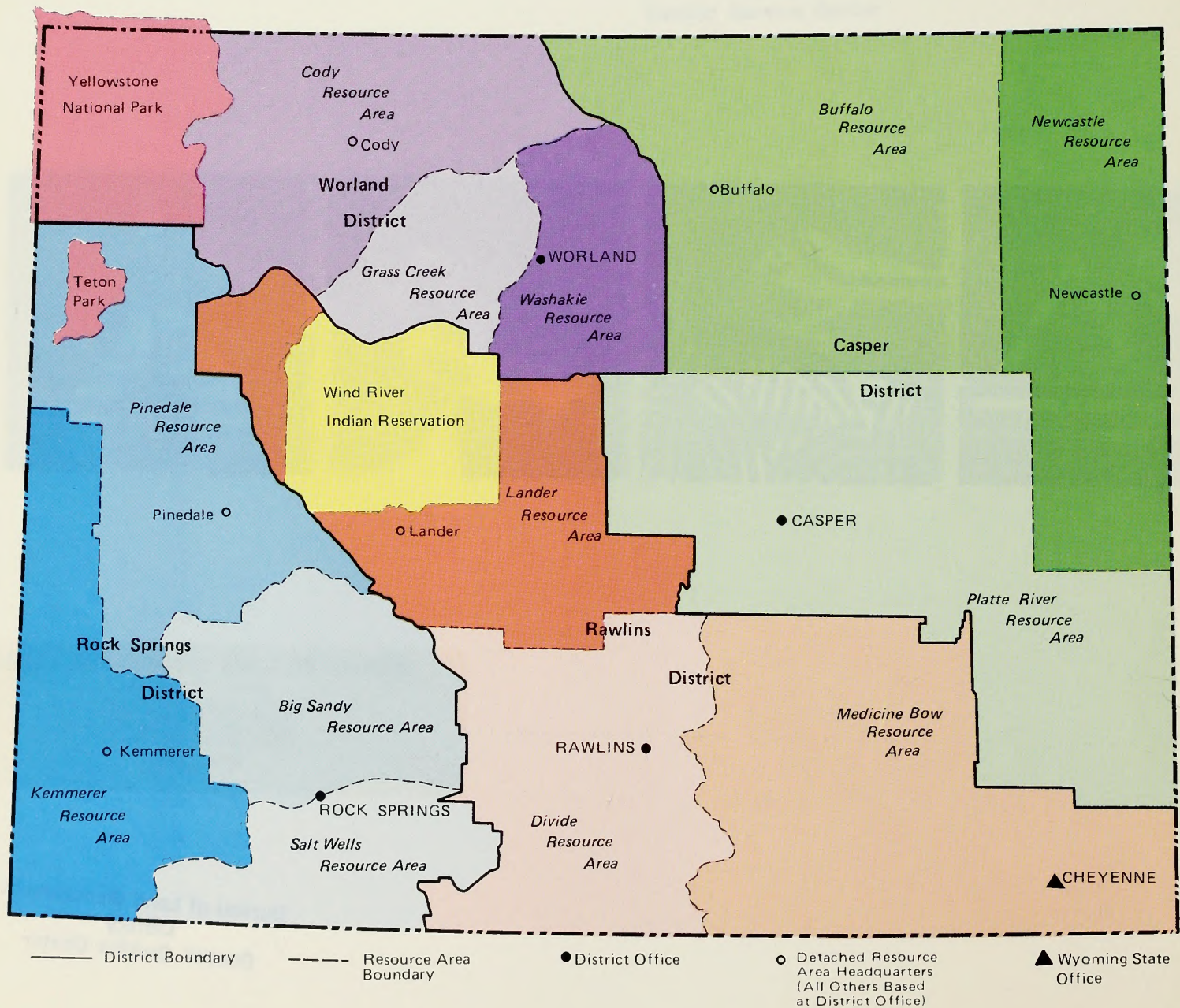
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Purpose

The purpose of this brochure is to summarize the land use decisions reached for the Seven Lakes Management Framework Plan (MFP).

Because of the large number and complexity of the decisions, it is impossible to present all of them in this summary. We have, therefore, summarized only the significant decisions for each resource activity.

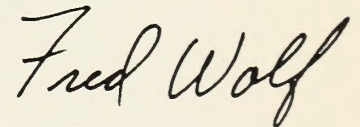
The complete plan, with all related documents, is available at the district office in Rawlins. You are invited to visit and review it at your convenience. My staff and I are available to discuss the decisions and assist you in reviewing the document.

Many factors affect the current usefulness of a land use plan or management decision. For example, new data, changes in regulations, new laws and shifts in public desires, expectations and concerns all have a bearing on the plan and may dictate a change in the decisions based upon it. Undoubtedly, some of these factors were changing while the land use plan discussed in this document was being developed.

Accordingly, a land use plan represents the situation in a given geographic area at a given point in time. Planning, however, is a dynamic process. It is the challenge of the land manager to be sensitive to the significance of change to trigger plan updates, thereby assuring sound land use decisions. This plan will, therefore, be revised over time as circumstances require.

If you wish to comment after reading this summary of land use decisions, there is a reply form inside the back cover for your use.

Again, I thank all the persons, organizations and governmental agencies which contributed so significantly to this project. Your assistance was invaluable in completing resource inventories, developing future land use recommendations and commenting on these recommendations as well as the decisions for use of these public lands.



Fred Wolf
District Manager
Rawlins District
November, 1978

Contents

Overview	5
General Description	6
Major Issues and Problems	8
Land Use Management Decisions	15
Lands	16
Wildlife	18
Watershed	23
Forest Products	24
Recreation	25
Range Management	27
Wild Free-Roaming Horses	33
Minerals	34
Cumulative Environmental Overview	38
Interrelationships with Other Plans	40
Actions After the MFP	40
Glossary	41
Comment Sheet	43
BLM Offices in Wyoming	Inside Back Cover

Overview

This brochure summarizes the development of the management framework plan (MFP) for the Seven Lakes planning unit of the Divide Resource Area. Planning decisions reflect inventory information gathered during the past several years for the major resources — vegetation, wildlife, minerals, soils, watershed, hydrology, recreation, cultural and open space. Current information and revised plans were needed to provide a basis for an environmental statement (ES) on grazing.

The MFP is a working document, a guide for day-to-day resource management. The planning decisions allocate resources and land uses. The MFP includes a narrative and graphic display of the planning decisions which are supported by rationale for each resource activity (lands, minerals, range, forestry, watershed, recreation and wildlife).

Final planning decisions are subject to revision at any time in response to changing conditions or demands. Significant revisions will involve public participation, which is an integral part of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning process. This process requires that all interested citizens be given an opportunity to express their views and desires, raise specific issues and explore alternatives.

Public involvement for the Seven Lakes MFP began in the summer of 1976 through contacts with individuals in the area. Recommendations were solicited and information concerning land use was gathered and disseminated. This type of public participation and feedback continued throughout the planning process.

A news release summarizing major issues and conflicts, and inviting public participation appeared in the April 28, 1977, issue of the *Rawlins Daily Times*. A letter and fact sheet concerning the Seven Lakes planning issues were sent to 400 interested individuals or interest groups. Subsequent news releases appeared in all newspapers within the district and were aired on radio and television newscasts.

The Divide Resource Area hosted an open house from May 31 to June 10, 1977, during which members of the public were invited to review planning documents and maps at the Rawlins Office. On June 2, a workshop was conducted at the Rawlins Office and a final hearing on the proposed decisions was held that evening.

These meetings and workshops were attended by a crosssection of the public and industry. Approximately 60 persons were involved at the workshop and hearing. They contributed many valuable recommendations on the major issues. Twenty written recommendations were received at the hearing in addition to oral statements from 14 persons. Comments covered issues involving range management, fencing, wildlife habitat, wild horses and mineral development.

During June and July, district personnel met with Sweetwater and Carbon County Commissioners, their Planning Commissions and planners to review the planning documents. Meetings to discuss the proposed decisions were also held with Wyoming Game and Fish Commission personnel and with other state agency representatives. A news release was issued to local news media outlining the significant land use proposals.

General Description

(See General Location Map, Page 7.)

The Seven Lakes planning unit contains nearly 700,000 acres of land, of which 650,000 acres (93%) are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The remaining 50,000 (7%) acres are private and state lands.

The southeast corner of the planning unit lies approximately 20 miles northwest of Rawlins. The unit is considered an integral part of the Red Desert and occupies a large percent of the Great Divide Basin.

Topography is generally characterized by large expanses of relatively flat terrain and gently rolling hills. Elevation in the unit increases to the north along Cyclone Rim and Crooks Mountain, and in the eastern portion along Bull Springs Rim or Lost Soldier Divide. The lowest elevation, 6,486 feet, is near Soda Lake in Separation Flats. The highest elevation, 8,191 feet, is on Crooks Mountain. The majority of the area lies between 6,600 and 7,000 feet above sea level.

Predominant vegetation includes greasewood and saltbush, as well as sagebrush, which is found throughout about 65% of the planning unit.

The area is noted for its migratory antelope herd and is prime habitat for sage grouse and a variety of raptors. These significant wildlife values, coupled with premium open space and the sparse human population, figure prominently in the way this area is enjoyed by the public.



The Seven Lakes planning unit, as viewed from Cyclone Rim, consists mainly of large expanses of relatively flat terrain and gently rolling hills.

The Seven Lakes planning unit has a population density of approximately one person per three square miles, compared to the state average of almost four people per square mile. The unit's total population of approximately 350 is located in the settlements of Bairoil and Lamont in the northeast corner of the planning unit.

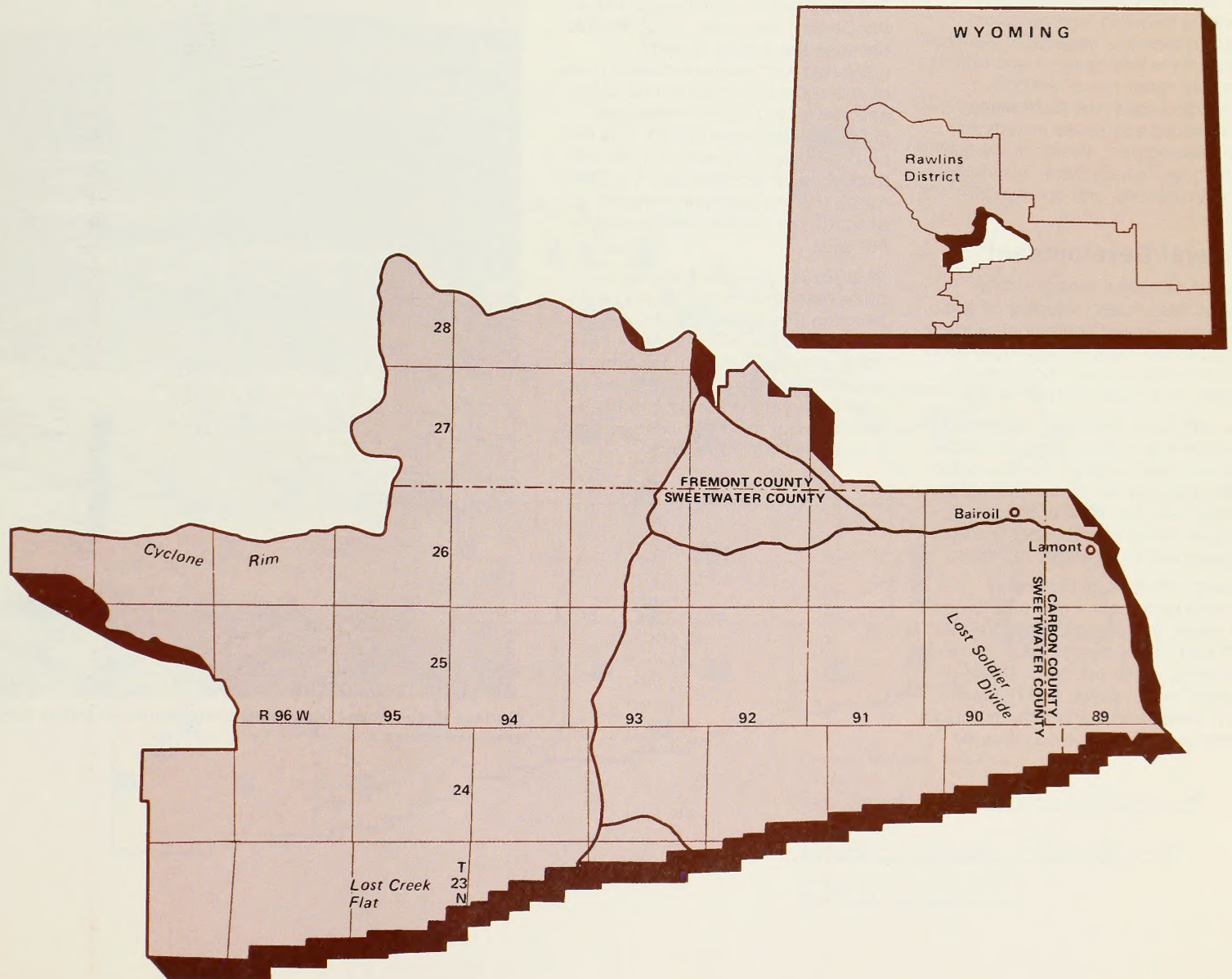
Indirectly, many more people are linked to the area through the development of and exploration for mineral resources, primarily oil and gas and uranium. The local economy of nearby communities outside the planning unit such as Rawlins and Jeffrey City is heavily dependent on mineral production.

A large part of the manufacturing sector of these nearby communities is devoted to processing oil and gas. The economic dependence on minerals is increasing relative to the development of industries such as uranium and additional oil and gas deposits.

The energy minerals found in the Seven Lakes planning unit will continue to influence the local and national economy well into the future.

Other important sectors of the economy in the Rawlins area are agriculture, recreation, tourism and transportation.

General Location



Major Issues and Problems

Major issues and problems which received special attention during the planning process are summarized in this section. These issues reflect conflicts between land resource uses, irreversible impacts of development on the environment and effects on other resources of actions authorized under the 1872 Mining Law. Issues addressed include mineral development, livestock grazing, wild horse management, wildlife habitat management and open space values.

Mineral Development

The Seven Lakes area is rich in energy resources, including oil and gas, uranium and some coal. Surface disturbances from mining exploration activities conflict with open space, wildlife and roadless area values.

The nationally significant deposits of uranium are either currently being mined or will probably be developed in the near future. Under the 1872 Mining Law, the BLM does not control the mining, prospecting and assessment of locatable minerals.

Mining activities involve major surface disturbance and facility construction. In many cases, more than 100 feet of overburden must be removed to reach ore beds. Major access roads, power line rights-of-way, shops and manufacturing plants either exist or will be constructed.

The only way to limit mining of locatable minerals is to withdraw the area from mineral entry.

The elimination of mining activity in the Seven Lakes area is not feasible because the area is already blanketed with uranium claims, many of which contain minable ore. Claimants have prior rights unless their claims are declared invalid. This can be done only if, by examination and through legal proceedings, it is determined that sufficient marketable quantities of the claimed mineral do not exist.

As a result, land use planning for other resources in the Seven Lakes planning unit must consider the mining of uranium as having an overriding priority. Planning decisions regarding open space, roadless areas, wildlife, watershed and recreation management must consider existing or potential mining activity.

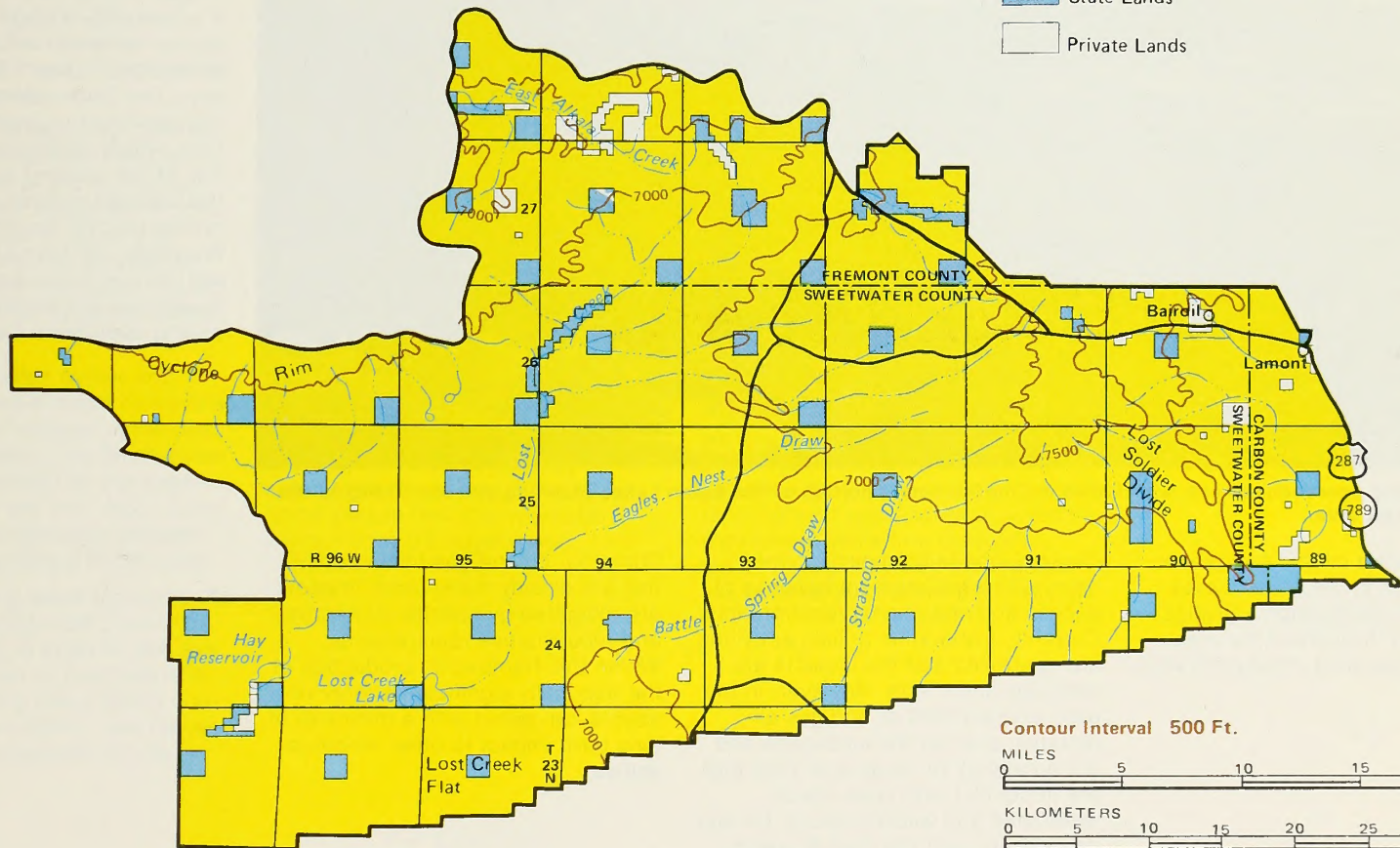


Surface disturbances from mineral exploration activities conflicts with other resource values.

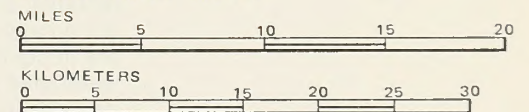
Land Status



- Public Lands (Administered by B.L.M.)
- State Lands
- Private Lands



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Uranium mining operations in and adjacent to the northernmost portion of the Seven Lakes planning unit are changing the face of this vast area.

Four established oil and gas producing fields exist in the Seven Lakes planning unit. Exploration activities are scattered throughout the area and are accelerating. Producing wells

cause a long term impact on the open space environment because of access and operational requirements. Currently exploration drilling activities are controlled and the impacts are relatively short term. However, in the past, uncontrolled oil and gas exploration scarred the landscape and left a network of roads and trails that are in conflict with open space, watershed and wildlife values. Oil and gas activity over the past 60 years has considerably changed the face of the area through the proliferation of roads and facilities.

Currently, oil and gas mining activities are closely supervised. Impacts are mitigated by specific protective and rehabilitative requirements. Within this framework, production of the nationally significant energy resource can occur with a minimum of long term impact to other resource values.

Coal will become an issue as demand increases and the deposits are better defined. Presently there is a proposal to explore and define the coal deposits so that future planning decisions can consider mining of the coal resource.

In summary, the Seven Lakes area is best known for its open space and unique wildlife and recreation values. It is currently a major source of energy minerals — both uranium and oil and gas. Under current mining laws, the Seven Lakes area will include major uranium mining operations which could produce more than 5% of the national supply. Even with the required protective measures on mining permits issued by the State of Wyoming, the face of this vast area will change as access is developed, powerlines are constructed and mining operations are extended.

Livestock Grazing

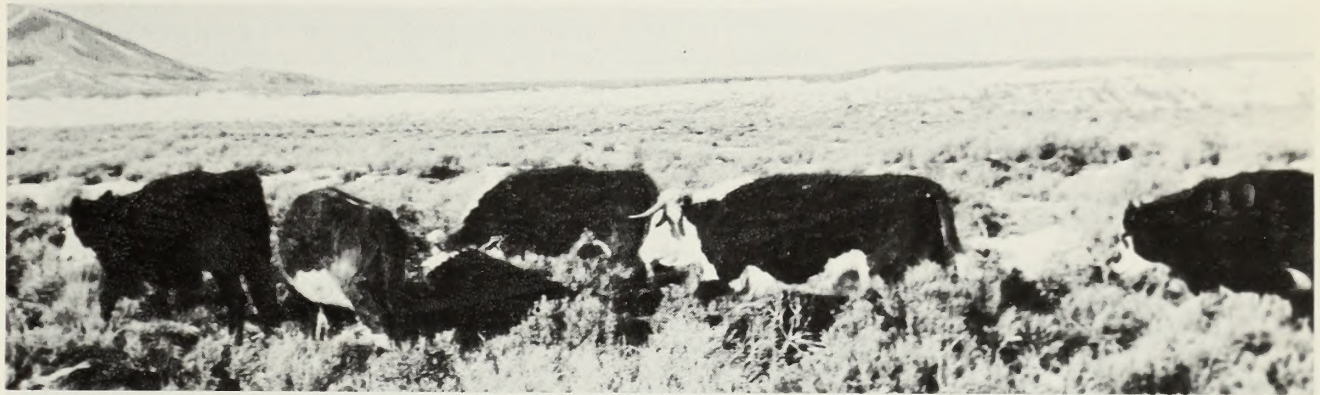
There are nearly 700,000 acres of unfenced rangeland in the Seven Lakes area. The primary issues result from recent changes in livestock grazing patterns. Prior to 1930, large herds of sheep were grazed in the area.

Currently there are 21 livestock operations which have grazing privileges within the Seven Lakes planning unit. Of these, 14 are sheep and seven are cattle.

Within the last 10 years, rangelands in the unit have not been heavily used, since 80% of the authorized sheep use has not occurred. A combination of economic, labor and predator problems has resulted in many of the sheep operators requesting conversion from sheep to cattle use.

Appropriate facilities (water and fences) would make much of the area better suited for summer cattle use. Heavy snow depths now force winter sheep to concentrate on the snow-free sections of the unit. Also, there is less forage competition between cattle and the antelope in the area.

The basic grazing issue concerns the requests to change from sheep to cattle. However, in order to achieve proper distribution of livestock and implement grazing plans which consider habitat for wildlife, new fences and water developments will be required.



Many of the livestock operators want to change the class of livestock they graze from sheep to cattle.

Fencing is a sensitive issue. Fences are a barrier to migratory antelope, especially in heavy snowstorms which occur approximately every 20 years. Posts and wire are also in direct conflict with open space values.

Water development (mostly windmills) can influence the seasonal distribution of wildlife and could result in overuse of forage by livestock in areas critically needed by wildlife. Some people feel that windmills detract from the open space

resource. In contrast, properly designed and located livestock facilities, combined with grazing systems, can accelerate improvement of the total environment. The production of additional forage would benefit wildlife, wild horses, livestock, watershed conditions and visual resources.

Another range issue involves the intensity of livestock grazing management. Rest rotation grazing systems require a great deal of fencing, water development and control of livestock movement, while in a deferred system fewer facilities and controls are needed. At present the cattle or

sheep are free to roam the total unit, but tend to concentrate in favored areas such as meadows and stream bottoms.

Under the multiple use concept, the intensity of the required grazing system must be balanced with the need for wildlife and wild horse habitats, the impact of fence and water developments on open space and the ranchers' operational requirements.



Wildlife and open space — two significant resource values in the Seven Lakes planning unit.

Open Space

The Seven Lakes area has been one of the largest relatively undisturbed areas in the United States. However, mining activity and recreational use in recent years has resulted in a proliferation of access roads the unit.

This area is nearly flat and has few trees, therefore, any major disturbance or facility can be seen from nearly any spot in the 1,000-square-mile area.

Oil and gas exploration, mining claim assessment work and recreational ORV use have left the worst scars in this area. In some places, extensive uranium mining involves the removal of more than 100 feet of overburden, construction of major access roads and transmission lines and erection of shops and manufacturing plants. Oil and gas activities also add to total disturbance.

Even with these types of uses, the Seven Lakes planning unit can remain one of the significant open space areas in the West. ORV use can be managed, long term mining impacts can be mitigated and open space areas not heavily impacted can be protected.

Issues involving open space in the Seven Lakes planning unit relate to mining, recreation and livestock management programs. Specifically, planning decisions must address the following:

- Number and types of livestock facilities to be constructed.
- Degree of and controls on oil and gas exploration.
- Protection of relatively undisturbed areas.

Wildlife

Although the Seven Lakes planning unit does not support the diversity of big game species found in other parts of Wyoming, it is an important wildlife area. It contains both crucial winter and summer habitat for a portion of one of the world's largest migratory herds of American pronghorn antelope and for large numbers of sage grouse. Less abundant populations of mule deer and elk also occur in the area, along with limited fisheries and waterfowl, many raptors, small mammals and other nongame wildlife.

The antelope ranges in the Seven Lakes Planning Unit are of local, regional and national significance. Wildlife populations in the Red Desert area provide high quality recreational, aesthetic and economic values. Wildlife, in fact, is important to the western way of life.

Until recently, a lack of other land uses has afforded most animals with little or no human disturbance and adequate habitat quality. However, with increased energy exploration and development, more access roads and more human activity, habitat loss and degradation increases. Adequate protection of crucial winter and breeding-nesting and wetland habitats is necessary to ensure that wildlife susceptible to human disturbance are not adversely affected during crucial life-cycle periods. Since different wildlife species have varied tolerances to such activity, effective land use planning is imperative to promote healthy and abundant wildlife populations.

Unrestricted livestock use could cause deterioration of riparian, aquatic and upland habitats. But, sound grazing management, which gives wildlife full consideration, can improve range resources and provide both livestock and wildlife with high quality forage, cover, water and space. Inadequate planning, poorly designed fences and water developments can hinder migrational movements and degrade crucial habitats. However, selective placement of water facilities and the protection of instream flow quantities can provide better distribution of wildlife and therefore better summer habitat. At the same time, it can improve existing high use areas by decreasing the use on them.

Much of the potential damage to wildlife from other activities can be mitigated by use of restrictions and other proven management practices. However, accelerated programs, such as those now occurring for uranium and oil and gas development, will reduce the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat in the Seven Lakes area during the activity period.



The number of wild horses in the Seven Lakes planning unit has reached 350.

Wild Horses

Horses have roamed free in the desert only in recent history. All are descendants of domestic horses abandoned or turned loose. Until the late 1960's the horses were rounded up periodically as a sport or business venture. As a result, their numbers did not increase from year to year. Since the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195) which required protection of the horses, their numbers have increased to approximately 350 in the Seven Lakes planning unit.

Wild horses are found throughout the unit, but tend to concentrate around the water sources. Although no allocations for forage have been made for wild horses, voluntary nonuse of grazing privileges by livestock operators has prevented overgrazing.

Without population control, the horses will soon cause an accelerated deterioration of prime habitat areas and watershed values, especially in meadow and other riparian areas. In concentrated numbers, horses cause more damage to the habitat than other grazing animals in the area.

In hard winters, the horses drift south to the same few snow-free areas critical to antelope. Horses forage much farther from water than domestic livestock. Unlike domestic livestock, wild horse movements cannot be effectively controlled to the

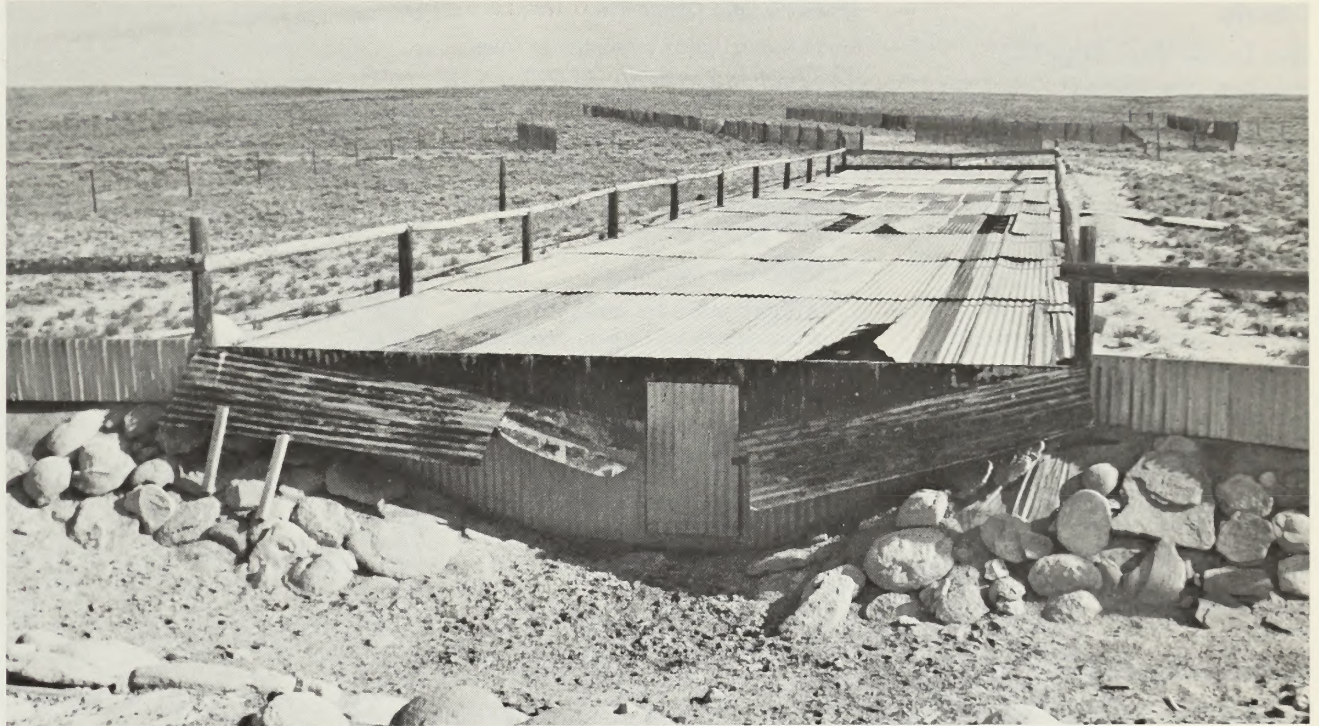
benefit of vegetative conditions. Further complicating management is the fact that wild horses remain in the area year-round, sometimes depleting favored areas until deterioration occurs.

Local opinion does not favor retention of wild horses in the Seven Lakes area, but there is considerable nationwide interest in the wild horse.

Wild horse populations must be controlled to some degree in the Seven Lakes planning unit, both as a matter of good resource management and in the public interest. The issue then becomes "how many," what facilities will be provided and what priority will they be given in relation to wildlife and livestock needs?

Land Use Management Decisions

In this section, the significant land use decisions are highlighted for each resource activity. These decisions pertain to the preceding issues as well as some of the more significant aspects of each activity. The management decisions are presented by description, multiple use objectives and decisions. The rationale for each decision is also provided. A complete list of decisions is available to the public at the Rawlins District Office.



A guzzler, or covered reservoir has been developed to provide water for antelope and other wildlife in the Seven Lakes Area. Land use decisions supporting various resource activities are included in this section.

Land Use Management Decisions

Lands

(See Lands Map, page 17.)

Program Description

The lands program is varied and complex. It includes land use authorizations for community, industrial, commercial and residential purposes. Some intensive land uses which must be considered include: sale of lands; issuance of leases, permits and rights-of-way; meeting state indemnity rights such as for school lands; and the exchange of land with private landowners. Lands are often provided to state and local governments or other non-profit entities for various public purposes such as recreation sites, airports and sanitary landfills. Some areas may be withdrawn from certain uses to protect unique or special values such as wild and scenic rivers or wilderness areas.

Resource Description

Of the nearly 700,000 acres in the planning unit, nearly 93% or 650,000 acres are public lands, 6% or 40,000 acres are state land and 1% or 7,800 acres are private property. The land ownership pattern consists of large areas of public lands with small areas of state and private lands interspersed.

With the high percentage of public lands, there are demands for disposal to meet the needs of communities and industrial or utility companies.

Multiple Use Objective

Make public lands available to meet the needs of the public for community expansion, industrial development, public purposes and agricultural use while considering other resource values, and to support other activities such as rights-of-way, withdrawals and exchanges.

Multiple Use Decisions

1. **Utilities must be concentrated in corridors whenever feasible (see utility corridors on lands map).**

Rationale: Mineral activity is expanding rapidly and has created a need for utilities, primarily electrical transmission lines. Use of corridors will minimize impacts to open space, watershed and wildlife values.

2. **Review the existing 344,206 acres of coal land classification and 17,714 acres for stock drive-way withdrawal. Revoke the classifications if they are no longer needed.**

Rationale: Approximately 56% of the public lands is under special classification or withdrawal, which unnecessarily restricts management of these areas. If revoked, no conflicts should arise and additional multiple use opportunities would be available.

3. **Make 20 acres in N½, Section 20, T. 26N., R. 89W. available for a sanitary landfill in the Lamont-Bairoil area.**

Rationale: Making land available for a sanitary landfill would alleviate most of the indiscriminate dumping that is presently occurring.

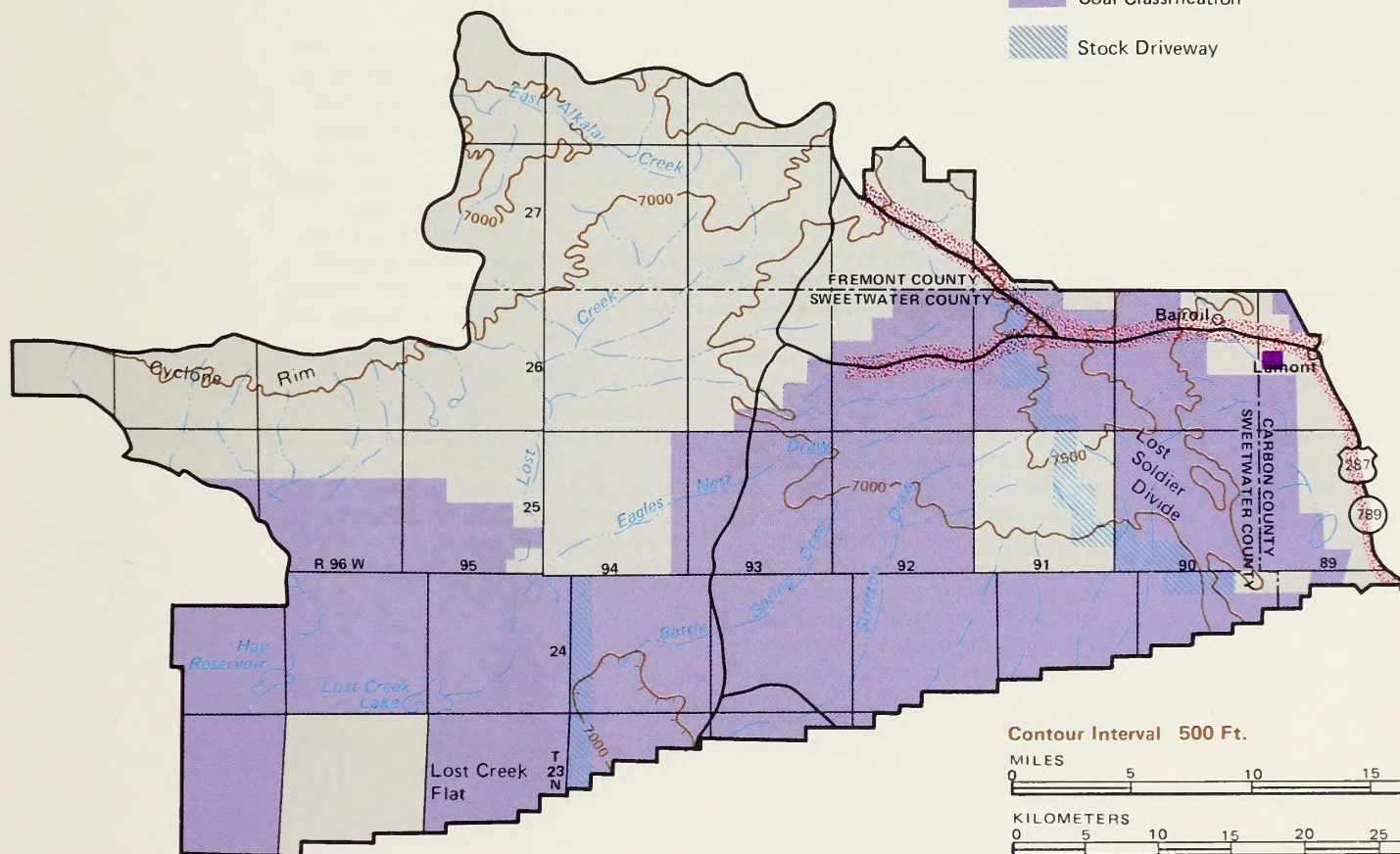


Utilities must be concentrated in corridors whenever feasible.

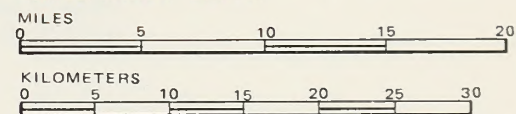
Lands



-  Utility Corridors
-  Sanitary Landfill
-  Coal Classification
-  Stock Driveway



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Wildlife

(See Wildlife Map, page 19.)

Program Description

The wildlife program is primarily concerned with the protection and improvement of habitat for all forms of fish and wildlife species. Wildlife is a major program in this planning unit because of the quality, variety and abundance of habitat. Wildlife values are an important consideration in developing other program decisions.

In order to protect and enhance these values, habitat management planning has become a major component of the wildlife program. The program activity is closely coordinated with the Wyoming State Game and Fish Department to conform with their management responsibilities for game populations.

Resource Description

The geographical area included in this planning unit is widely known for big game values, primarily antelope. The Seven Lakes planning unit is perhaps the stronghold of antelope habitat and furnishes a portion of the yearlong habitat for one of the largest migratory antelope herds in the world. Mule deer range over one-fourth of the area.

Black-footed ferrets have historically been found near the area, although their occurrence in the area is unconfirmed. There have been historic sightings of migratory peregrine falcons.

Antelope populations have greatly increased since the early 1900's when forage competition from cattle and sheep, hunting pressures and severe winters left only scattered herds in this area. Antelope are now the most conspicuous wildlife species in the planning unit. During summer seasons, antelope are scattered throughout the area with the majority summering to the north of the planning unit in the higher country around Green Mountain and along the Sweetwater. In the late fall they usually leave higher elevations for more protected areas at lower elevations along the southern boundary of the unit. Many move completely out of the unit into the checkerboard area to the south during a bad winter. These crucial wintering areas are essential to their survival.

Primary conflicts with other grazing animals include competition for winter range among cattle, sheep and wild horses. Uranium, oil and gas development and community development, with the related competition for water, forage and open space, all affect habitat to some degree. Fencing creates a conflict with antelope during migrations, especially when coupled with deep snow.





Several species of upland and small game animals as well as fish occur within the planning unit. Cottontail rabbits are widespread throughout the area as are several nongame species such as coyotes, jackrabbits, badgers and prairie dogs. Sage grouse are found in all parts of the planning unit and provide a significant number of hunter days annually. The entire unit furnishes nesting and hunting habitat for raptors.

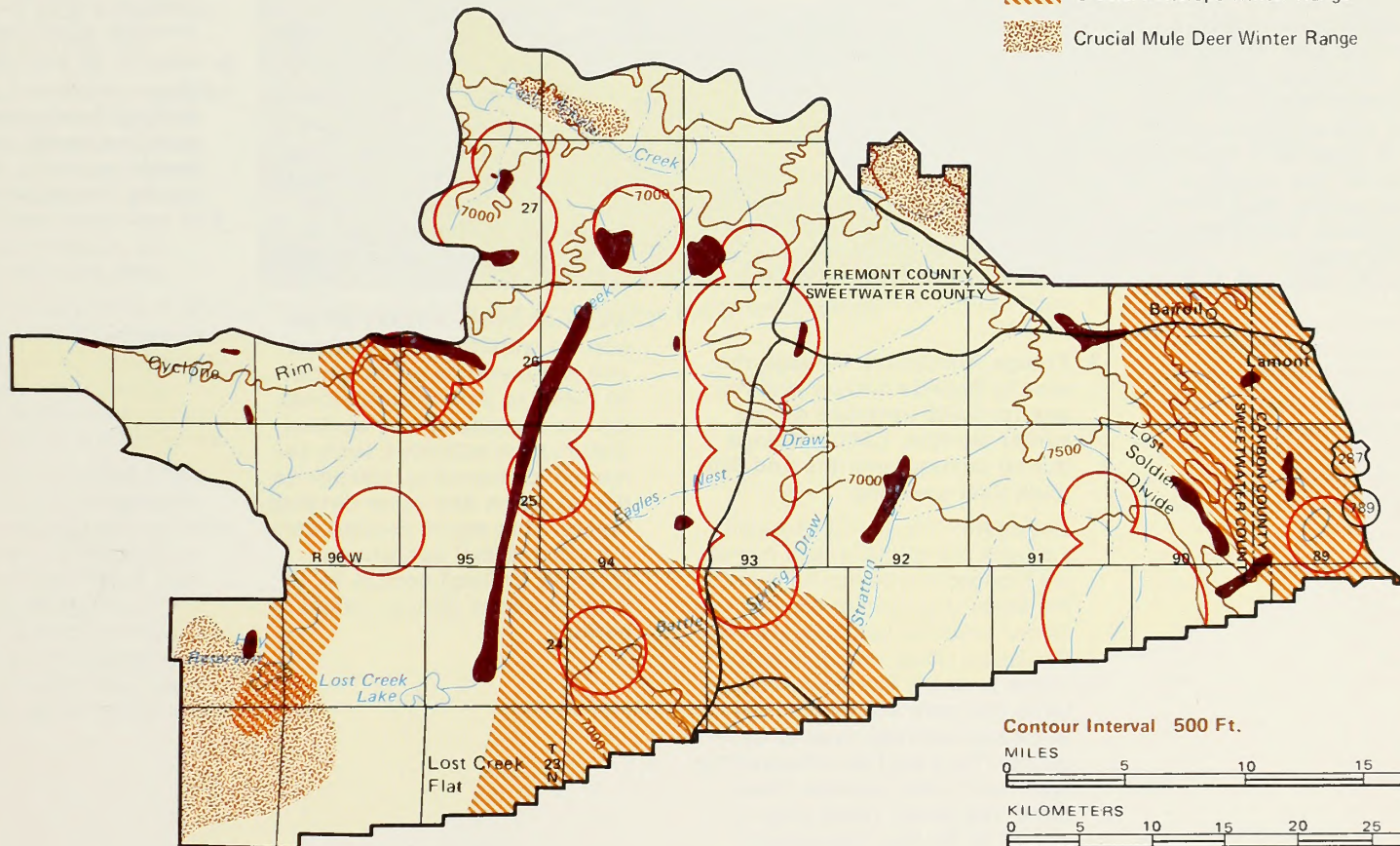
Multiple Use Objective

Maintain and improve the quality of existing habitat with special emphasis on crucial areas (i.e., nesting areas, winter ranges, wetlands, meadows and watering areas) to support present population levels in harmony with other resource values.

Wildlife



-  Crucial Sage Grouse Habitat
-  Raptor Nesting
-  Crucial Antelope Winter Range
-  Crucial Mule Deer Winter Range



Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Multiple Use Decisions

- 1. Crucial Areas. Minimize destruction of vegetation in all identified crucial habitat areas. Limit surface use and disturbance during critical use seasons. Require restoration or preserve high value crucial areas from activities where impacts cannot be mitigated.**

Specific decisions include:

Restrict oil and gas drilling from December 15 to April 15 in winter ranges crucial to deer. Restrict oil and gas drilling from March 15 to June 30 in sage grouse nesting and strutting areas. Require drill sites be located a minimum of 250 feet from any fisheries.

Rationale: Crucial areas for deer and sage grouse cover a significant portion of the planning unit. These areas are essential to survival of the species due to food, cover or isolation requirements. Reduction or elimination of these areas usually affects wildlife populations of a much wider geographical area.

Nationally important deposits of uranium and oil and gas are distributed through the unit. Completely eliminating surface disturbance in crucial areas would have a widespread impact on energy development and other resource programs. Many of the activities associated with these programs are limited in area and duration of disturbance. In many cases, rehabilitation measures maintain or improve site productivity. In other situations, reclamation is not feasible in terms of restoring crucial area characteristics.

Considering these facts, oil and gas drilling is restricted in crucial deer game winter ranges from mid December to mid April and in nesting and strutting grounds during breeding and nesting seasons.

- 2. Forage Allocation. Manage the area to provide habitat and forage for 5,000 antelope during winter months, 1,800 antelope during summer months and 300 mule deer yearlong.**

Rationale: The Red Desert area contains one of the largest migrating pronghorn antelope herds in the world. A portion of the Red Desert antelope herd migrate into the Seven Lakes Unit during the winter from the Sweetwater country to the north and feed on the windswept and low snowfall desert plains. There are few fences of the type that hinder antelope movement. The Seven Lakes area is crucial to the total life cycle of these migrating antelope as it provides forage during severe winters.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department recommends that multiple use management of the area include provisions for maintaining 5,000 head in the winter and the 1,800 in the summer. This is a priority area because public access and ownership provide for both hunting and viewing antelope.

The area is widely known for its antelope population and public opinion is nearly unanimous that optimum populations should be maintained.

The Seven Lakes area contains a limited amount of mule deer habitat consisting mostly of scattered mountain shrub type and some juniper and conifer stands. The population level of 300 deer is considered maximum.

- 3. Water Sources. Protect all important wildlife water sources and wet meadow areas (about 50 listed to date) from destruction or degradation by surface disturbance activities such as mining, overgrazing, transportation systems and other developments. This would include denying commercial operations (such as drilling) access to water sources during critical periods.**

Rationale: Antelope, sage grouse and shore birds are very dependent on these sites, especially during late summer. Overgrazing by livestock or wild horses or other surface disturbance around these sites can reduce shoreline or meadow vegetation, reduce water flow and increase water temperature. Protection of these sites while providing for livestock watering would maintain and improve wildlife habitat.

Denying access to water for oil and gas or uranium drilling operations during critical periods could cause long distance water hauling or the drilling of new wells.

4. **Fence Construction.** Prohibit the construction of new fences within crucial antelope winter ranges. New fences crossing migration routes will be kept to a minimum (see proposed decisions for fencing in range section.)

Any fences constructed in the unit will not be more than three strands with a total height not to exceed 38 inches. The bottom strand will be at least 16 inches high. In crucial migration areas (as determined by BLM and Wyoming Game and Fish Department), antelope passes or let down panels will be utilized to facilitate movement and panels will be let down by October 20th of each year.

Rationale: In severe winters, such as 1971-1972, antelope must have full use of crucial winter ranges to survive. Fences within these crucial areas could result in concentration of herds in small areas.

Some fences are required if livestock grazing is to be managed. Management of grazing is to some extent necessary to maintain or improve the productivity of the habitat. It is expected that the overall effect of the minimum number of fences proposed, accompanied by supporting water developments, will enhance wildlife habitat.



The Seven Lakes unit is a stronghold of pronghorn antelope.

5. **Water Development.** Coordinate efforts to develop new water sources for antelope with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and with the "One Shot Antelope Club" in Lander.

Rationale: Water is a limiting factor for antelope in many areas. More habitat and better distribution of antelope can be achieved by increasing water on a planned basis. The "One Shot Antelope Club" has initiated a fund raising program for water development.

6. **Beaver Management.** Prevent destruction of active beaver ponds or adjacent food supplies on Crooks Creek, Lost Soldier Creek and Arapahoe Creek. Consider transplants to the area where conditions are favorable.

Rationale: The habitat provided by beaver is important to other species such as cutthroat trout; big, small and upland game species; and many non-game species.

7. **Raptors.** Protect the identified raptor nesting areas through limiting oil and gas drilling to 10 months (July 1 through April 30) and preserve nesting areas from surface disturbance. Prohibit use of toxicants for rodent control in major raptor feeding areas.

Rationale: The restrictions on oil and gas drilling will protect raptors during nesting periods. Surface disturbance actions will be handled on a case by case basis.

A chemical reduction of the raptor food supply (rodents) would reduce their numbers. Digestion of rodents containing chemicals can sterilize the birds or limit nesting success.

8. **Fisheries.** Avoid those actions which may be detrimental to stream fisheries habitat to the extent possible. Primary fisheries include Crooks, Arapahoe, Alkali and Lost Soldier Creeks.

Rationale: The fisheries habitat is limited. Such activities as oil and gas exploration, mining, grazing, pipeline construction and reservoir construction should be managed to protect fisheries habitat.



Several species of nongame wildlife are found in the unit.

Watershed

Program Description

The watershed program is intended to achieve stabilization in the balance of fragile soil resources. The program calls for the restoration or improvement of soil productivity, protection and enhancement of water yield and water quality, vegetation, air, etc., and the reduction of potential flood and sediment damage — both in the immediate area and downstream. These objectives are achieved by limiting other land uses, either by modification or maintenance of the vegetative cover or by installing water management or control structures. Because of the vast area involved, the primary feature of BLM's watershed program involves the management of other land uses or surface disturbance actions affecting vegetative and soil cover. For example, erosion can usually be reduced by prescribed grazing use that stimulates better vegetative cover.

Resource Description

The erosion condition in 99% of the area is rated as being stable, slight or moderate. Brush species are the major vegetative cover with bare soil between plants, leaving the fine textured soils susceptible to wind and water erosion. Some channel erosion occurs during the high intensity spring runoff. The low precipitation, porous soils and flat topography make the area relatively flood free.

However, activities such as mineral exploration and development, grazing, road and trail construction, and pipeline or utility line construction can contribute to watershed problems if not conducted properly.



Some snow fences now exist in the unit to capture drifting snow in the winter and to provide spring run-off to fill small reservoirs.

Multiple Use Objectives

Manage watershed to preserve soil productivity as well as to protect water quantity and quality. Consider and mitigate impacts on watershed values in authorizing and managing other activities.

Multiple Use Decisions

1. Pursue a cooperative agreement with the State Engineer and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to ensure

that water use, management and quality standards on state owned lands are consistent with and supportive of multiple uses on the surrounding public land.

Rationale: Surface water systems and associated meadows are located on much of the land owned by the state within the unit. These areas are vital to users of the surrounding public land. Actions by the state could adversely affect the public land or actions by the Bureau could adversely affect state land.

A cooperative agreement is the most feasible means to resolve these possible conflicts.

2. Erect snow fences on intermittent drainages that supply water to reservoirs.

Rationale: Snow fences would create snow drifts in the drainage channels. These drifts would hold moisture until the spring melt, thus increasing runoff in the drainage.

The additional water stored in reservoirs would benefit both livestock and wildlife.

Forest Products

Program Description

The forestry program includes forest stand management and development, as well as pest and disease detection and control. The program includes timber management, which deals primarily with the commercial sale of saw timber and minor forest products (posts, poles and fuel wood).

Resource Description

There are approximately 1,000 acres of forest land within the unit, primarily on the south side of Crooks Mountain and along stream bottoms. These forest lands are classified as nonproductive because of the less desirable species (such as aspen), poor growing conditions and the small pockets of timber involved.

Multiple Use Objective

Manage forest lands by considering watershed, wildlife forage and aesthetic values, and maintain and improve existing cover on nonproductive forest lands.

Multiple Use Decision

Maintain the vegetative cover on 1,000 acres of nonproductive forest land, but allow the sale of minor forest products.

Rationale: The forest land is nonproductive for timber but does provide wildlife habitat, watershed stability and aesthetic values.

Management of the timber, considering the above mentioned forest conditions, will improve or maintain the existing situation.



This is typical of the forest cover in the northern part of the planning unit near Crook's Gap.

Recreation

Program Description

The recreation program includes the inventory, identification and preservation of natural, historic, archeological and cultural values. The program is responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of recreation facilities; visitor management and the control of recreation activities. Major recreational uses in Wyoming include hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, picnicking, rock hounding, sightseeing and an ever expanding variety of off-road vehicle activities.

Cultural resource management has become a major activity, partially due to the need to protect cultural values from increasing surface disturbance activities.



ORV use is widespread throughout the Seven Lakes planning unit.

Resource Description

Recreational values of the unit are closely tied to open space and the relatively natural condition of most of the area. Wildlife provides for hunting and sightseeing.

The unit is currently a vast, open space area.

Cultural values include the Rawlins-Ft. Washakie stagecoach trail and archeological sites. Only limited segments of the trail are considered to be worthwhile remnants.

The unit contains a maze of roads and trails which have developed over the years due to mineral exploration, livestock grazing and recreational use. These roads encourage further proliferation of roads and ORV use. The uncontrolled use detracts from the visual values of the unit.

The unit contains several roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more which will be inventoried for wilderness characteristics under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Further compromising of the undeveloped, open space values is expected from the increases in various resource activities.

Multiple Use Objective

Provide protection and enhancement of the open space; preserve the visual, historical and archeological values for the education and enjoyment of the public while permitting other resources to be developed and used.

Multiple Use Decisions

1. **Preserve the open space character, to the extent possible, by locating future transportation routes, communication and utility lines near existing transportation corridors.**

Rationale: Such actions can help preserve the open space and undisturbed character of the area by concentrating disturbance and visual intrusions in previously disturbed areas.

2. **Initiate a program to work with industry, county governments and other user groups to establish a transportation system in the Seven Lakes planning unit and stop the unnecessary proliferation of new roads. Encourage the use of existing roads and carefully plan the location of new roads that are needed. Signing and some road closure actions would be utilized to help accomplish this.**

Rationale: A large amount of unnecessary surface disturbance is being caused by activity in the area. This decision will help control surface disturbance and preserve open space values.

3. **Designate Highway 287 north of Rawlins to the planning unit boundary a scenic corridor and thus restrict the permanent location of significant intrusions within a zone equal to the distance from the highway centerline to the horizon or 2,000 feet, whichever is less.**

Rationale: Carbon County previously classified this highway as a scenic corridor. This recommendation incorporates the county designation into the management framework plan.



The range management program involves authorizing and supervising grazing use.

Range Management

(See Range Maps, pages 29 and 31.)

Program Description

The range management program includes inventory, evaluation and management of the vegetative resource on public lands as used by domestic livestock, wild horses and other grazing animals. The program involves authorizing and supervising grazing use, developing and maintaining management facilities which support livestock and other grazing animals, and protecting the range from weed infestations, pests and diseases. The Bureau is planning to complete environmental statements on all lands where domestic livestock grazing is authorized. The Seven Lakes Grazing ES which covers a large percentage of this planning unit is scheduled for completion in January, 1979.

Resource Description

Currently, the livestock from 21 ranches graze in the Seven Lakes planning unit within two allotments — the Seven Lakes Incommon Allotment and the Ferris Incommon Allotment. Section 3 grazing permits for seven cattle operations and 14 sheep operations could presently be licensed for a total of 69,538 animal unit months (AUMs). An additional 5,341 AUMs held by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission are not licensed for use by livestock.

In past years approximately 1% of the cattle use and 80% of the sheep use has been carried as nonuse. The 80% sheep nonuse in this area is similar to the general trend in the West which has seen a drastic reduction in sheep numbers over the past 20 years on the public lands due to labor problems, predator losses and general economic pressures on the sheepman. This area has differed from other planning units and no requests for changes in kind of livestock from sheep to cattle have been granted due to the lack of fences and water, hence the extremely high percentage of nonuse for sheep.

Livestock management is complicated by several problems. This 700,000 acre planning unit is divided into only two administrative allotments with no individual areas of use designated at the present time. This creates a situation where there is extreme competition for preferred grazing areas near water, or in the case of winter sheep grazing, in areas open from heavy snow and in areas providing shelter from the wind. As a result, the forage resource has been overused in some areas, particularly near water, and has been virtually unused in others. There are no interior fences within the planning unit. Large sections of the northern boundary adjacent to the Green Mountain planning unit, as well as the southern boundary along the checkerboard area are unfenced. This has made the control of livestock, particularly cattle, almost impossible. The most serious problems have been caused by the movement of cattle along drainages such as Lost Creek, from the northern portion of the unit into the southwest portion of the unit near available water sources. The southwest part of the unit is also the most suitable range for winter use, and as a result, has received heavy yearlong use.

Surface water within the area is very sparse; however, a large groundwater table near the surface in most areas, indicates the problem could be corrected by drilling wells.

Although winter sheep grazing has been the dominant historic use in the unit, the entire north central portion, west of Lost Soldier Divide (40% of the unit), is unsuited to winter sheep use due to heavy snow in most years. With adequate management facilities (water and fences), this area would be better suited for summer cattle use.

Approximately 74% of the area is covered with shrub vegetation. No threatened or endangered plant species are known to exist.

Multiple Use Objective

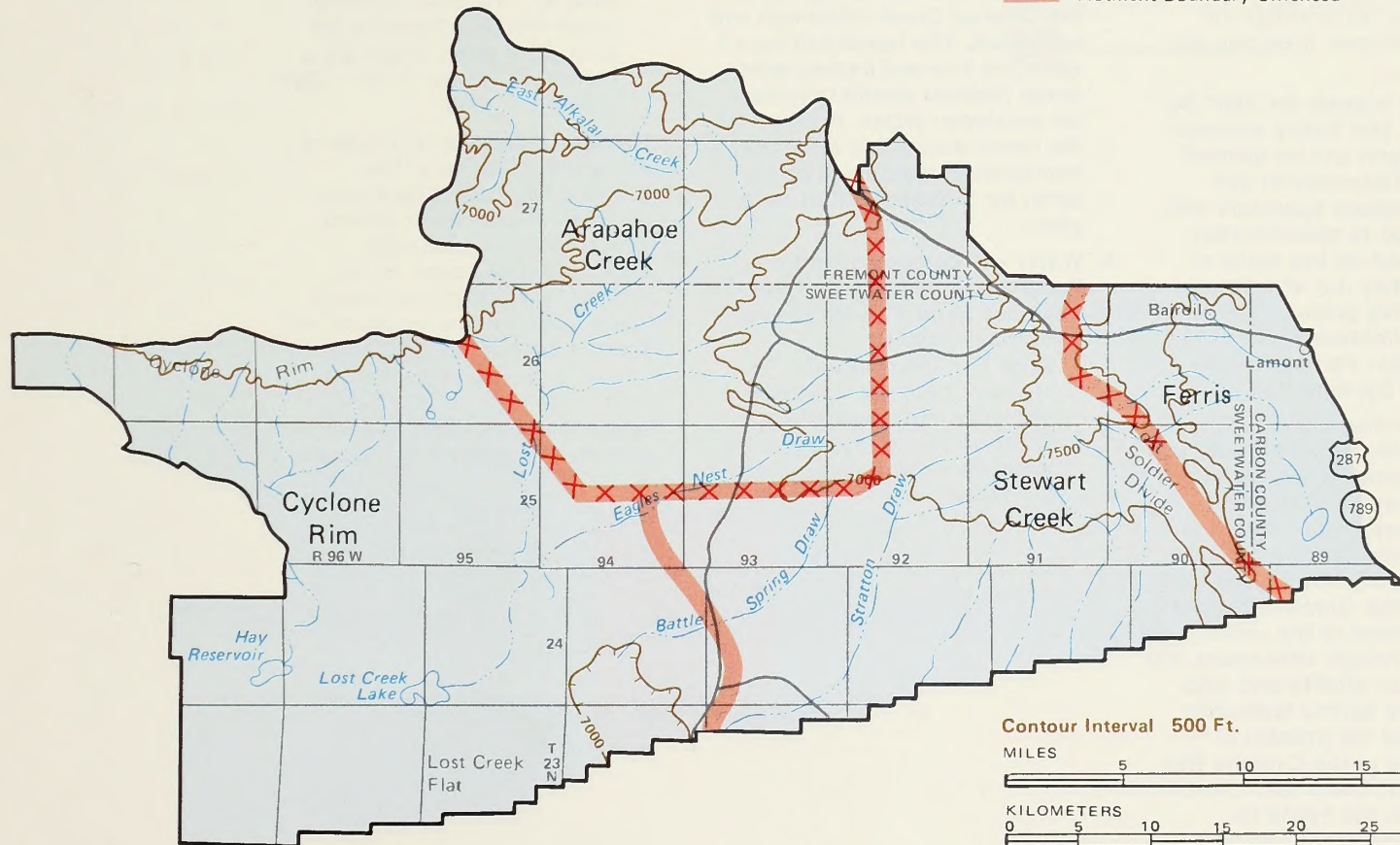
Manage livestock to not only increase available forage, but also to improve wildlife habitat, watershed and other resources.

Range Management Allotments and Proposed Fencing

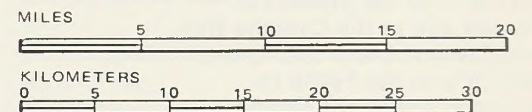


✕✕ Allotment Boundary Fence (New)

■ Allotment Boundary Unfenced



Contour Interval 500 Ft.



Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Multiple Use Decisions

Initiate allotment management plans (AMPs) on the Seven Lakes planning unit. Management will be low intensity. Fencing will be kept to an absolute minimum (approximately 44 miles) necessary to adequately manage livestock within the unit. Pursue deferred turnout or deferred rotation grazing systems. Specific steps necessary to complete this action are as follows: (See map on page 29.)

1. To provide a basis for AMP development and future management, the unit will be divided into four allotments or use areas. Livestock operators will be assigned to specific allotments based on the class of livestock they run and the seasons they graze in the unit. The four allotments are: Arapahoe Creek, Ferris, Stewart Creek and Cyclone Rim.
2. Grazing privileges for the Cyclone Rim, Stewart Creek and Ferris Allotments will be based on the Bureau's 1975 and 1976 range survey. Adjustments for the Arapahoe Creek Allotment will be made following the completion of the Green Mountain MFP (adjacent to the north). Adequate forage allocations will be made for wildlife and wild horses. The survey indicates that 92% of the present licensed use in the Cyclone Rim and Stewart Creek Allotments and 78% in the Ferris In-common Allotment can be satisfied after the allocations for wildlife and wild horses have been made.

3. Seven requests for change in kind of livestock from sheep to cattle will be approved within the unit. Forage allocation will be adjusted for the kind of livestock and season of use requested.
4. The east and south boundaries of the Arapahoe Creek Allotment and the east boundary of the Stewart Creek Allotment will be fenced. The fence will be a standard 3-strand barbed wire fence (bottom strand barbless) for antelope ranges. Portions of the fence dissecting antelope immigration routes will be let down by October 20th of each year.
5. Water will be developed in those areas identified on the map (see page 31) with the following constraints:

Area 1 — Develop water on an intensive basis for summer livestock use and management. There will be no restrictions on other seasonal or class of animal usage.

Area 2 — Develop water for winter livestock and wildlife use. Water will not be available for livestock from May 1 to October 31 annually.

Area 3 — Develop minimal amounts of new water to aid in distribution of winter sheep and summer cattle.

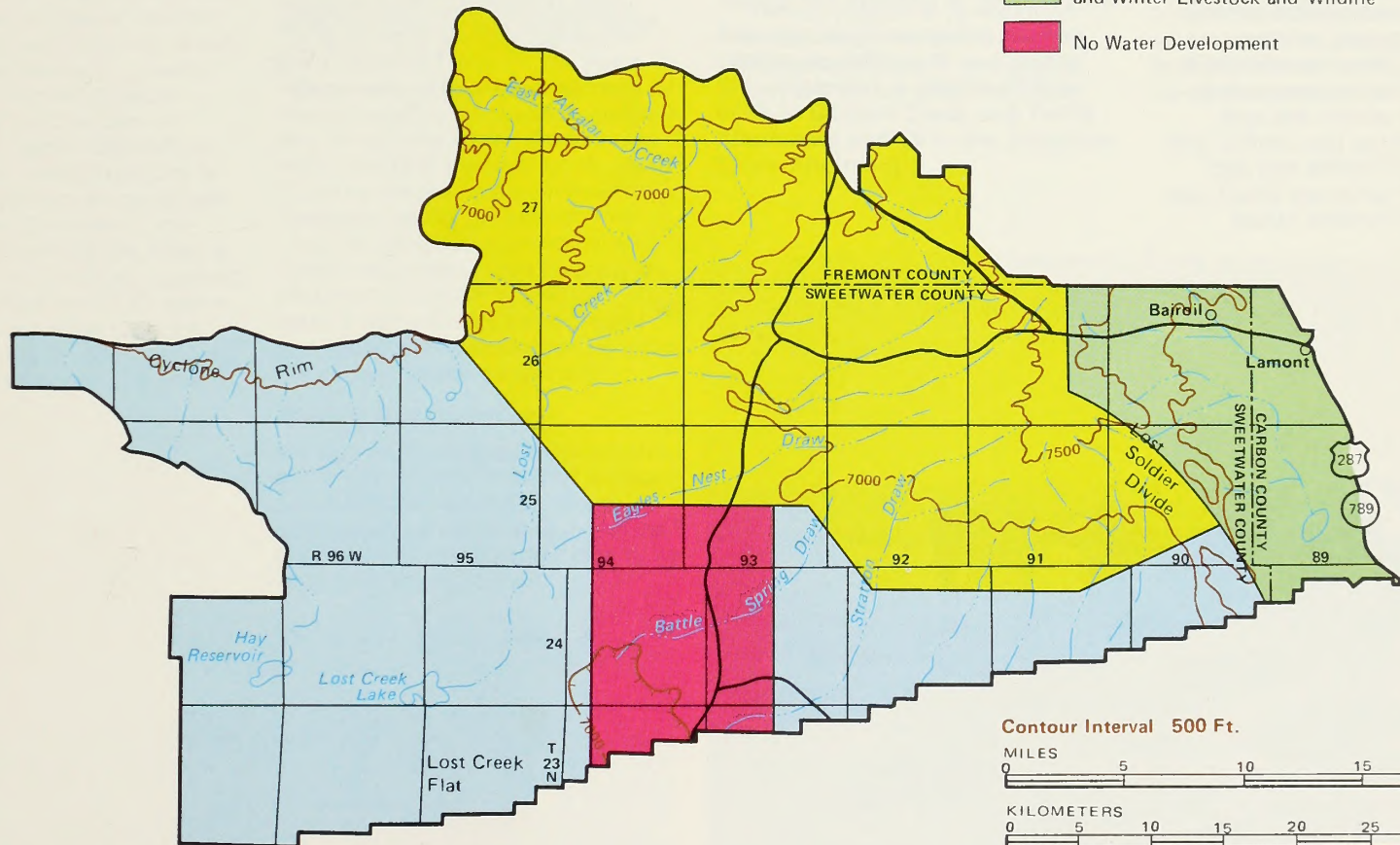
Area 4 — No water developments will be initiated by the BLM. (This area is basically a corridor along the Crook's Gap-Wamsutter road.)

Rationale: Developing intensive management on the entire planning unit cannot be accomplished without major conflicts with other resource values, especially open space, mining, and migrating antelope. Present range condition and trends do not support the concept of developing intensive grazing management over the entire unit. The public is opposed to developing intensive grazing management in this area.

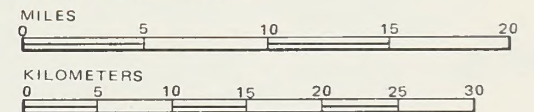
Range Management Water Development



- Summer Livestock and Wildlife
- Winter Livestock and Wildlife
- Limited Development for Summer and Winter Livestock and Wildlife
- No Water Development



Contour Interval 500 Ft.



Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

This planning unit is composed primarily of a northern desert shrub vegetative association. The climatic factors are harsh with a very short growing season.

Deferred grazing can more effectively accommodate the flexibility that the livestock operators desire in this area. The management tools required to implement a grazing system are the primary cause of impacts on other resources. Water development can influence the seasonal distribution of wildlife and wild horses. Fences can conflict with migration of wildlife and wild horses can adversely affect open space and primitive values.

The two proposed fences are considered the minimum necessary to effectively manage this area of approximately 700,000 acres. Extensive herding and control of livestock by use of water and salt will also be necessary.

Establishment of the four allotments based on current range inventory data would allow implementation of an orderly system. Grazing would be distributed more evenly over the total area, plants could be rested during critical

growth periods, forage could be preserved in crucial wildlife areas and operators could more efficiently manage their operation. Implementation of this decision should improve range conditions over a long period of time.

The requests for changes in kind of livestock can be effectively handled in conjunction with the proposed decisions. The changes to summer cattle will be made in areas not suitable for winter sheep use due to the heavy snow conditions.



Seven requests for change in kind of livestock from sheep to cattle will be approved.

Wild Free-Roaming Horses

Program Description

The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 gave the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture jurisdiction of free-roaming horses and burros. Since passage of the law, the horse populations have expanded. Forage requirements for wild horses must be considered with the needs of wildlife and livestock. A part of herd management is the roundup and disposal of horses in areas where horses are in trespass on private property, where populations are in excess of available habitat or where horses are claimed by private individuals. BLM disposes of wild horses primarily through the Adopt-a-Horse program which allows qualified individuals personal use of an animal. Removing excess horses from the range helps assure an adequate food supply for the remainder of the herd.

Resource Description

The 1976 aerial inventory showed a wild horse population of approximately 300 animals. Concentration areas are along Cyclone Rim (60), Chain Lakes-Lost Soldier Divide (190) and Crooks Mountain (60). The 1978 population is estimated to be 335 to 350 animals. Approximately 70 wild horses roamed this area in 1971 when the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act was passed.

Wild horses compete directly with domestic livestock and wildlife for available forage and water. Competition will continue in the near future, even if control measures are initiated immediately. At the present time virtually no forage allocations for wild horses have been made on grazing allotments. Nonuse by livestock operators has prevented overgrazing and subsequent competition between the various forage consumers.

Multiple Use Objectives

Manage wild horses as a component of the environment, with reductions in population levels consistent with other resource values and in accordance with the management plan to be developed for wild horses.

Multiple Use Decision

Develop a wild horse management plan and manage the unit for an average population level of 130 wild horses, with actual numbers to range between 90-185 head. Plan to remove horses every four years to reduce the herd to 90 head. Forage will be reserved to satisfy the demand of 185 animals.

Average numbers within grazing allotments will be 16 in Cyclone Rim Allotment, a combined total of 55 in Stewart Creek and Ferris Allotments and 59 in the Arapahoe Creek Allotment.

Rationale: A reduction of the wild horses to an average level of 130 head is necessary to achieve a balance of multiple uses. This number would make a manageable population and would more than satisfy the public demand for wild horses in the area. Rounding up horses yearly to maintain this level is not feasible due to economic and workload considerations. A four year cycle of roundups will maintain the average population level with numbers ranging from a low of 90 to a maximum of 185 head.

Minerals

Program Description

The minerals program includes disposing of minerals by lease, license and permit; coordinating exploration and mining activities with other land uses; and providing protection and rehabilitation of mined land. The program also involves adjudicating mineral patent applications, economic analysis and appraisal. Minerals on the public lands are categorized as locatable, leasable, and salable.

Locatable. Those minerals that may be staked and claimed under the General Mining Law of 1872, i.e., gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc and uranium.

Leasable. Minerals subject to leasing under the Minerals Leasing Act of 1920 and other authorities including oil and gas, coal, oil shale, phosphate, sodium, potassium and geothermal resources.

Salable. Materials sold under the Materials Sale Act of 1947 including common varieties of stone, scoria, sand and gravel.

Resource Description

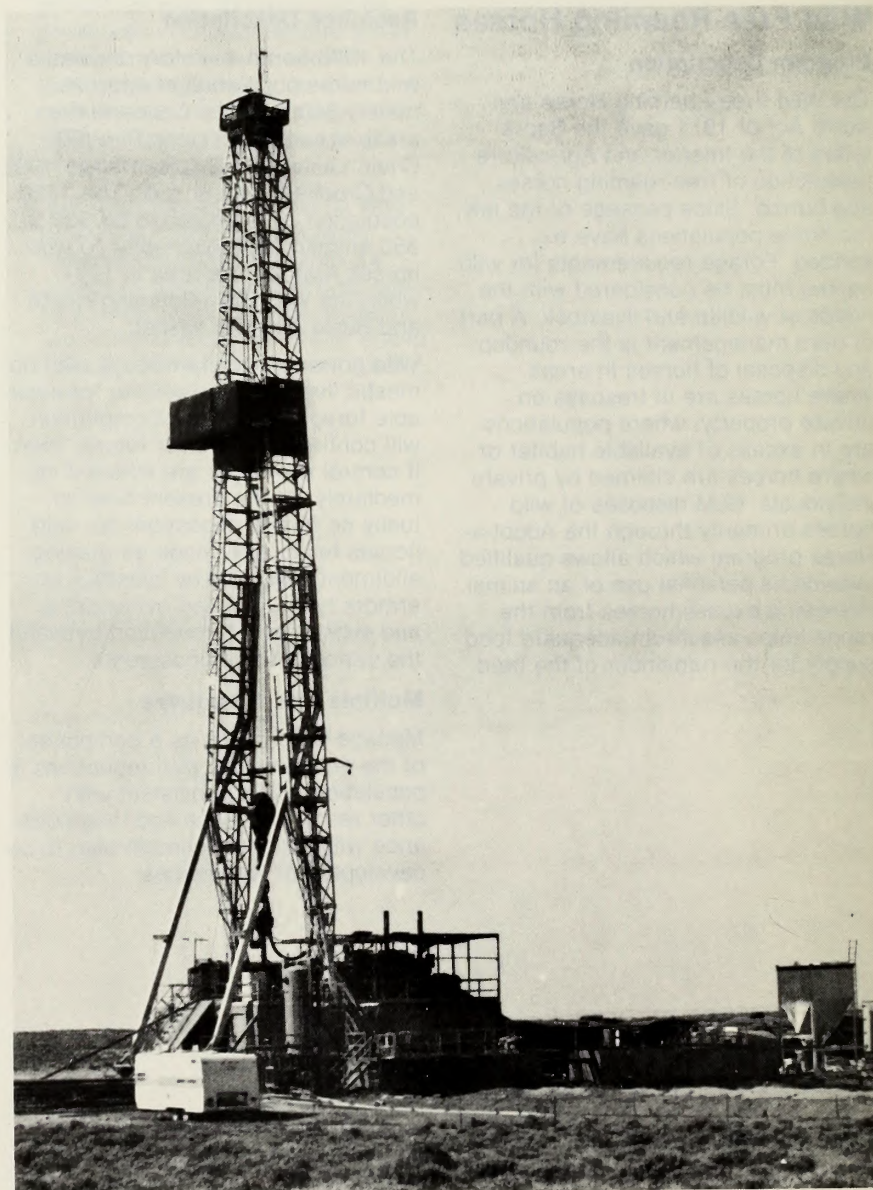
Oil and Gas. Oil and gas exploration and development has occurred in the unit for about 60 years. Approximately 95% of the area has been leased for oil and gas. There are presently four producing fields in the unit. Two additional fields are being developed. Exploration is active and drilling is scattered throughout the unit. Cumulative production through 1975 has exceeded 234 million barrels of oil and 90 billion cubic feet of gas.

Coal. The only known coal mining in the unit was in the early 1940's in the Lost Soldier Divide area. The Red Desert area, in the southwestern part of the unit, contains several potentially minable coal beds which were drilled and mapped in 1956 by the U.S. Geological Survey. About 80% of the unit is known to be underlain by subbituminous coal, but bed thickness and depth of overburden are not well documented at this time.

Uranium. Uranium deposits in the Great Divide Basin have been known since 1935. Extensive studies on these deposits began about 1948. Exploration and claim staking is quite intense, with about 90% of the unit being claimed at the present time. Several economic deposits have been discovered, some of which will probably be mined in the near future.

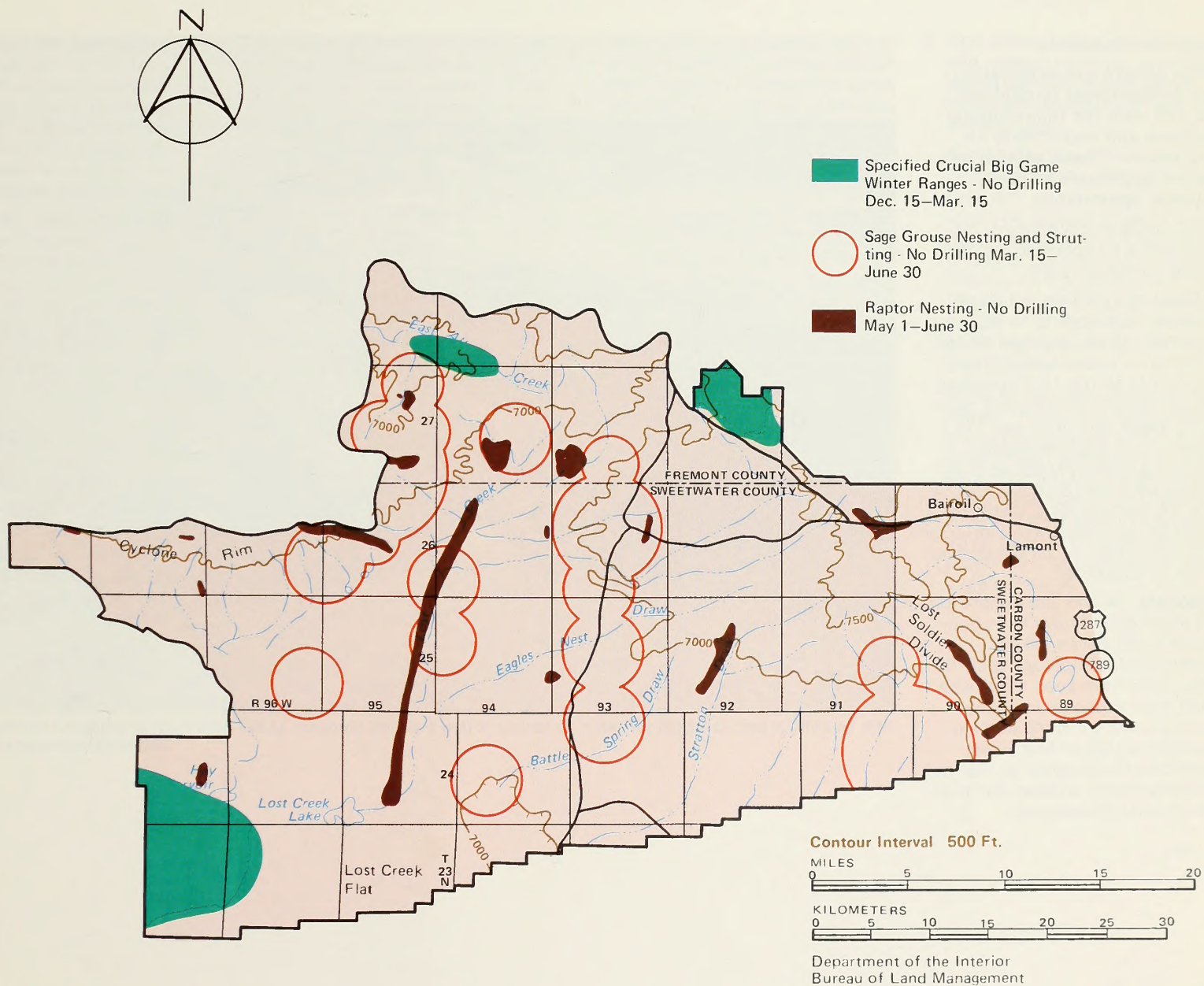
Multiple Use Objective

Make lands available for mineral exploration and development to contribute to the nation's becoming more energy self-sufficient by 1985; minimize impacts on other resources; protect other resources with overriding values and require adequate rehabilitation.



Oil and gas exploration and development has occurred in the unit for about 60 years.

Oil and Gas



Multiple Use Decisions

1. Allow oil and gas exploration and development throughout the unit with the following exceptions and restrictions on new leases. (These restrictions are not applicable to geophysical operations.)

- a. No surface occupancy or disturbance on specified historic and recreation sites.
- b. Exploration drilling will be allowed from April 15 to December 15 on specified crucial big game winter ranges; from July 1 to March 15 in specified sage grouse strutting and nesting areas, and from July 1 to April 30 in specified raptor nesting areas; except as otherwise permitted by the authorized officer. Exceptions will be authorized when impacts on the crucial ranges will not be significant.

Rationale: Oil and gas exploration and development have been conducted in the Seven Lakes planning unit for approximately 60 years. They have been a mainstay of the local economy for many years, providing income and employment to Carbon and Sweetwater County residents, as well as providing energy supplies for local and regional consumption.

In order to meet local, state and national demand and meet the national commitment of greater self-sufficiency by 1985, new sources of petroleum must be discovered. Present knowledge of the geology in the planning unit indicates that there is a good possibility of finding new petroleum reservoirs that will help meet the present and future demands of the country.

Exploration is intensifying and drilling activity has more than doubled in the past year. An exploration program of approximately the present intensity is expected to continue for some years to come.

Drilling activity, depending on its proximity, can result in surface disturbance, noise and activity that is inconsistent with use of historic and recreation sites for educational interpretation or recreational purposes. By moving a proposed well site a few hundred feet, impacts could be eliminated in most cases.

Drilling activity and the associated noise, vehicle movements and other human activity can have adverse impacts on the survival and reproduction of some wildlife species in their crucial habitats such as winter range, nests and strutting grounds. Such activity may cause habitat to be abandoned, unsuccessful reproduction and in some cases, reductions in wildlife population. By restricting drilling times in selected areas, disturbance of crucial nesting areas will be minimized while still providing for exploration during most of the year.

2. Encourage the exploration of coal within the planning unit. Because adequate data is not available at this time, any decisions on leasing will be made in the future as more information on the coal resource and mining methods become known.

Rationale: While the Seven Lakes unit resource analysis identifies the unit as having subeconomic coal reserves, further geological studies may indicate the unit contains potentially economic coal resources. Exploration would basically consist of core drilling with little surface disturbance.

Coal reserves identified at this time occur in crucial antelope winter ranges; however, exploration activities should have minimal impact on antelope or other resource values in the area.

Coal reserves in the unit could provide an energy source which may be developed in 15 to 20 years.



Lost Creek at Hadsell Crossing in the Seven Lakes planning unit is a major source of water for livestock and wildlife as well as for uranium exploration activities.

3. The Seven Lakes planning unit will remain open for uranium exploration and development under the authority of the 1872 Mining Law.

Rationale: About 90% of the area is claimed under the 1872 Mining Law. Any withdrawal of lands would be subject to these prior rights, many of which are already known to be valid and minable. The uranium deposits are of national importance as an energy source — a significant percentage of the nation's uranium will be produced in the area.

Much of the uranium will be strip mined. The surface disturbance will conflict sharply with the Red Desert open space and remote area concept. Mining will involve major haul roads, transmission lines and increases in related travel through the area. Waste water will also be spilled over large acreages.

Cumulative Environmental Overview

Lands

The lands decisions will establish major utility corridors across public lands in the unit. They are designed to prevent the proliferation of rights-of-way throughout the area, thus minimizing impacts to wildlife and open space values. The corridors were established through coordination with utility companies and mineral industries so that future industrial expansion can be accommodated with minimal impacts.

The decision to allocate public lands for a sanitary landfill in the Lamont-Bairoil area would be an alternative to indiscriminate dumping and burning of trash in the area and would facilitate clean-up of a number of unauthorized dumps on public lands.

Wildlife

The wildlife decisions are designed to benefit wildlife habitat and species while minimizing significant impacts on other resource programs. Recommendations are intended to protect and improve crucial wildlife habitat areas such as big game winter ranges, nesting and strutting areas and riparian areas. Recommendations specifically consider vegetative cover, potential surface disturbance, critical water sources and management of livestock as they affect wildlife habitat. Some adverse impacts will be caused by restrictions on mineral development.

Watershed

No significant impacts will result from the watershed decisions. There will be minor increases in costs and slight decreases in erosion. Some visual impacts will result from snow-fence construction in the unit.

Forestry

Some surface disturbance may result from management activities and forest productivity may be slightly increased; however, impacts resulting from decisions involving forestry are insignificant.

Recreation

Recreation decisions will maintain aesthetic qualities and open space values throughout the unit. Cultural and historical values will be preserved.

Livestock Forage

The livestock forage decisions are designed to allow use of the forage on public lands with minimal environmental damage. Some fences will be constructed which may create minor obstructions to wildlife and wild horse migrations. Water will be developed and grazing systems will be implemented which will reduce overuse of riparian areas.

Wild Horses

Wild horse populations will be reduced and stabilized. Forage will be allocated for wild horses, thus ensuring a sound basis for stabilization of the environment and improvement of vegetation.

Minerals

The decisions concerning minerals will result in both beneficial and adverse impacts. For example, uranium development in the unit will cause adverse impacts to open space values and wildlife habitat while providing employment to the local area and increased supplies of energy to the nation. Significant increases in employment will create a housing shortage in adjacent towns. Any other mineral exploration and production activities would produce essentially the same impacts.

The decisions relative to oil and gas will encourage exploration and development while protecting wildlife and cultural resources. Surface occupancy is restricted on less than one tenth of one percent of the public lands in the unit.



Management decisions will establish major utility corridors across public lands in the Seven Lakes planning unit.

Interrelationships with Other Plans

During development of the Seven Lakes land use plan, special efforts were made to coordinate this plan with other federal, state and local government agencies. This ensures that BLM planning decisions do not conflict with land use or resource management plans of other agencies. Agencies or government officials contacted, in addition to those at the public meetings, include: Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Carbon County Commissioners, Carbon County Planning Commission, and the Sweetwater County Planning Commission. Decisions in the Seven Lakes planning unit conform with local county zoning ordinances.

Decisions to make public lands available for public purposes, such as landfills, should benefit local governments concerned with future growth in the Lamont-Bairoil area.

Intensification of livestock grazing management may affect agencies such as the State Land Board, which works with some of the Seven Lakes range users.

Range management practices, particularly the construction of facilities such as fences and water developments, may affect wildlife populations either beneficially or adversely. The continued involvement of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will be required.

Wildlife management decisions have been coordinated closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to assure that BLM management of wildlife habitat is coordinated with the department's objectives for each wildlife species affected.

These are examples of the kind of coordination which have taken place during the preparation of the MFP. Such coordination is an on-going process designed to minimize conflicts in resource management in the future as well as during the development of this land use plan.

Actions After the MFP

This plan will be followed by on-the-ground actions reflecting the decisions listed. These actions are subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. An environmental assessment is prepared for each action whether initiated by industry or BLM. If the impacts are unacceptable, the proposed action may be modified or rejected.

On-the-ground actions by the BLM are contingent upon funding by Congress and it may be some time before some of these decisions are implemented.

The plan will continually be updated. As new resource information becomes available, as technology improves, as needs and demands change, and as laws, regulations and policies change, this plan will be revised.

Any major changes in this plan will be subject to public review and comment.

Glossary

Allotment Management Plan

(AMP): A written plan for the management of livestock grazing designed to attain prescribed goals for each grazing allotment (a parcel of public lands assigned to a grazing lessee). Each AMP is prepared in cooperation with the livestock operator. AMPs establish grazing use patterns or systems to stimulate the growth of the desired vegetation.

Animal Unit Month (AUM):

A measure of forage or feed required to maintain one cow or 5 sheep one month. The AUM is primarily used in measuring the amount of forage on public lands.

Checkerboard Land Pattern: A land ownership pattern resulting from early railroad grants made by the federal government to the Union Pacific Railroad Company to encourage construction of a transcontinental railroad system and settlement of the west. Generally, even numbered sections are public lands and odd numbered sections privately owned.

Environmental Statement (ES):

A document prepared in response to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The ES assesses the impacts of a proposed action on the quality of the human environment. It also identifies mitigating measures that can be employed to reduce adverse impacts. The ES is a tool that decision-makers use to weigh the environmental consequences of a proposed action.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976:

A comprehensive federal law combining and consolidating many archaic and often conflicting federal land management laws. It is the first clear cut mandate Congress has ever given to the Bureau of Land Management for managing the 473 million acres of public lands under its jurisdiction. Also called the BLM Organic Act.

Forage: Plants available to and chosen for consumption by grazing animals.

Grazing Systems: These may include one or a combination of the following systems:

1. Season-long Grazing: Grazing during any specified season.
2. Deferred Grazing: A delay of grazing for a specific period of time during the growing season.
3. Rotation Grazing: Grazing one pasture, then another, allowing regrowth of the vegetation between periods of grazing.
4. Deferred-rotation Grazing: Combines the above two grazing systems. This includes alternating pastures to delay grazing on a portion of the range until a specific plant growth stage is reached. With this system, the entire range is used at some time during the grazing season.
5. Rest-rotation Grazing: This allows rest from grazing at suitable intervals to counteract the harmful effects of selective grazing. Under this system of management, a pasture or unit of range is deferred or rested from use after a season of grazing. This rest is designed to: (a) give plants the opportunity to make and store food — to recover vigor; (b) allow seed to ripen; (c) let seedlings become established; and (d) allow litter to accumulate on the soil surface.

Groundwater Recharge:

Movement of water from the earth's surface to underground bodies of water (aquifers).

Habitat Management Plan

(HMP): A BLM activity plan designed for a specific area to achieve maximum wildlife production.

Land Exchange: Trading of public lands (with or without subsurface rights) for lands in other ownerships which have value for public use, management and enjoyment. An exchange may be for the benefit of other federal agencies as well as BLM.

Management Framework Plan

(MFP): A planning decision document which establishes, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. It is the Bureau's Land Use Plan. It is prepared in three steps: Step One — Resource Recommendations; Step Two — Impact Analysis and Alternative Development; and Step Three — Decision-making.

Mitigation: A modification to lessen the negative results or increase the beneficial aspects of a proposed action. Mitigation is a critical element in environmental statements.

Multiple Use Management: A philosophy designed to enable public lands to be managed for as many uses simultaneously as practical. This philosophy recognizes diverse needs of the public and tries to relate these needs to the various resource values on the land.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): This act requires that federal agencies consider and document the environmental impact of proposed legislation or actions that would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality require environmental statements to comply with this law.

Off-Road Vehicle: Any vehicle capable of, or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, deriving motive power from any sources other than muscle, excluding: (1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, law enforcement or other government vehicle while being used for official or emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized on public land.

Planning Area: One or more complete planning units for which a land use plan is to be prepared.

Planning Area Analysis: This document analyzes requirements of the public now and in the future for lands, and renewable and non-renewable resources. It shows the significance of the lands within a planning area to users, operators, the community and region. It is based on data in the URA, Socio-Economic Profile and other regional information.

Planning Unit: A portion of a Bureau of Land Management district used for assembling resource inventory data. For each planning unit the district manager prepares a Unit Resource Analysis.

Recreation and Public Purposes

Act (R&PP): An act passed by Congress on June 14, 1926, which allows for the disposal of public lands to certain governmental agencies or other qualified organizations for recreational or public purpose needs.

Reclamation of Mined Land: The process of returning mined lands to a stable condition and form consistent with their pre-mining productivity and use or other approved post-mining land use. Also called rehabilitation.

Riparian Habitat: Natural wildlife abode situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream or other body of water.

Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds: A specific area where sage grouse congregate to perform courtship displays during breeding season.

Sanitary Landfills: Land used for disposing of solid municipal or industrial waste such as garbage, paper, sludge, cans, glass or other disposable items. Disposal is accomplished through placement in trenches and covered with soil. Landfills may be located on land where additional filling is needed prior to converting the land to other uses.

Stock Driveway: A reservation of public lands for public use in moving livestock.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA): A basic source of information on the land and its resources, consisting of:

Base Map

Physical Profile

Resource Inventory Summaries

Resource potential and capability of the land to fill the public's needs for these activities: lands, minerals, recreation, wildlife, watershed, forest products and range management.

Upland Game Birds: Game birds whose habitat is not associated with bodies of water. Examples are: sage grouse, pheasants and partridges.

Socio-Economic Profile: An information document for use in plan preparation. It describes the human populations in terms of social and economic factors. It also provides a checklist of other state and federal agencies to be consulted. It analyzes and records data relating to a relatively large region or area sharing similar socio-economic characteristics. A region may be a group of entire, adjoining counties, or it may approximate a district. It includes several Planning Areas.

Stocking Rate: In range management, the area of land allotted to each animal unit for the grazable period of the year expressed in acres per animal unit month.

(tear here)

Comment Sheet

**District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301**

Following are my comments regarding the Seven Lakes Land Use Management Plan:

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District Offices

Worland District

P.O. Box 119
Worland, Wyoming 82401

Cody Resource Area

Federal Building
P.O. Box 528
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Casper District

951 Union Boulevard
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Newcastle Resource Area

Highway 16 Bypass
Newcastle, Wyoming 82701

Buffalo Resource Area

P.O. Box 670
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

Rock Springs District

P.O. Box 1869
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Pinedale Resource Area

P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Kemmerer Resource Area

P.O. Box 632
Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101

Rawlins District

P.O. Box 670
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

Lander Resource Area

P.O. Box 589
Lander, Wyoming 82520

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